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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/439,348	11/15/1999	Paul Febvre	1487.0160000	1544

7590 12/21/2004

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EXAMINER

SHARMA, SUJATHA R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2684

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/439,348

Applicant(s)

FEBVRE ET AL.

Examiner

Sujatha Sharma

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-9,11-15,18 and 26-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-9,11-15,18 and 26-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/26/04
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claim 1,4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chater-Lea [US 5,822,314].

Regarding claims 1,4 Chater-Lea discloses a method for communication systems requiring timing synchronization between communication units. Chater-lea further discloses a method of controlling the transmission timing of a wireless mobile transceiver in a wireless communications system, including

- transmitting to the mobile transceiver a time slot allocation indicating a sequential plurality of time slots available to the mobile transceiver in a time-slotted channel; see col. 3, line 44- col. 4, line 47

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- receiving a burst transmission from the mobile transceiver in one of said time slots, the burst transmission including a time slot indication indicating the one of the time slots within which the burst was transmitted; see col. 5, lines 11-35
- calculating from the timing of reception of said burst transmission a timing correction value for the mobile transceiver so as to synchronize the transmission timing of said mobile transceiver with a reference timing; and transmitting said timing correction value to the mobile transceiver; see col. 6, line 53 – col. 7, line 28

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sasaki [US 3,641,274].

Regarding claims 7-9, Sasaki discloses a method a method of controlling the transmission timing of a wireless transceiver in a wireless communications system, including:

- transmitting a burst transmission from the transceiver and receiving at the transceiver a timing correction value; and further controlling a subsequent transmission by the transceiver according to the timing correction value and according to a timing uncertainty value as a function of time elapsed since reception of the timing correction value. See col. 1, lines 1-75, col. 3 line 15 – col. 5, line 53, col. 7, line 43 – col. 8, line 75.

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5. Claims 11-15, 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooper [US 5,646,947].

Regarding claims 11-15, 26-28 Cooper discloses a wireless link signal for wireless transceiver communication comprising a data burst including in temporal sequence:

- an initial predetermined synchronization sequence, a data field carrying the data content of the burst; and a final predetermined synchronization sequence. Further the plurality of slots is sequentially separated by a guard band, wherein the length of the guard band is less than the maximum relative timing error between transmissions in adjacent time slots.

See Fig.2, Col. 2, lines 13-61, col. 4, lines 24-45.

6. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chennakeshu [US 5,400,362].

Regarding claim 18, Chennakeshu discloses a method of transmitting data over a wireless communications link, comprising:

- detecting a timing reference signal; see col. 1, lines 15-34
- receiving a timing slot allocation over the wireless communications link; See col. 3, line 55 – col. 4, line 2
- and transmitting said data according to said timing reference signal and said timing slot allocation, in a time-slotted channel having a format including periodic blocks of constant length each occupied by either one long burst or an integral number of short bursts of equal length. See col. 5, lines 25-35

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3,29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chater-Lea [US 5,822,314] in view of Scott [US 6,388,997].

Regarding claims 3,29 Chater-Lea discloses all the limitations as claimed. However he does not disclose a method wherein the plurality of time slots forming a sequence block have a total length that is greater than the maximum variation in the propagation delay.

Scott, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a method wherein the plurality of time slots forming a sequence block have a total length that is greater than the maximum variation in the propagation delay. See column 7, line 52 – column 8, line 25.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the above teachings of Scott to Chater-Lea in order to limit number of users in a conversation and thus avoid interference issues.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chater-Lea [US 5,822,314] in view of Kronz [WO 99/00931].

Regarding claim 6, Chater-Lea as treated in claim 4 does not disclose a method of selecting the time slot randomly.

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Kronz teaches a method of selecting a time slot randomly. See page 11, lines 7-18.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the above teachings of Kronz to Chater-Lea in order to allow the user to send a reservation request for transmission of data signal prior to obtaining a time slot allocation for data transmission.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,3,4,6-9,11-15,18,26-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sujatha Sharma whose telephone number is 703-305-5298. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7.30am - 4.00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on 703-308-7745. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned and for all official communications is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3800.

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Sujatha Sharma
February 19, 2004


NAY MAUNG

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER